

REMARKS***SUMMARY OF TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW WITH EXAMINER***

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Kim for the courtesy of the telephonic interview conducted on April 1, 2009 during which the filing of the present response was discussed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 60, 61, 68, 70-72, 76 and 78-79 were pending in the instant application as of the issuance of the Advisory Action dated March 4, 2009. According to the foregoing amendments, claims 60, 70, 76 and 78 have been amended and claim 72 has been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, after the amendments presented herein have been entered, claims 60, 61, 68, 70, 71, 76 and 78-79 will remain pending in this application.

Support for the amendments to the claims may be found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed. Specifically, support for the amendments to claims 60 and 70 can be found throughout the specification at, for example, page 36, lines 3-25.

No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims. The amendments to the claims should not be construed as an acquiescence to the validity of the outstanding rejections and were done solely in the interest of expediting prosecution and allowance of the claims. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as previously pending and as originally filed in one or more further applications.

RESPONSE TO ADVISORY ACTION

In the Advisory Action dated March 4, 2009, the Examiner indicates that the amendments set forth in the Response to Final Office Action dated January 16, 2009 served to overcome the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

However, the Examiner further proposes certain amendments to attend to various formalities. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the pending claims

would be objected [to] because the claimed method is drawn to a method having step [sic] of co-crystallizing in the presence of an inhibitor bestatin; wherein the bestatin is bound to the active site of the LTA₄ hydrolase active site. Thus, reciting ‘co-crystallizing’ is more appropriate and clear compared to reciting ‘crystallizing’.

In light of the Examiner's comments, Applicants have amended the pending claims to be directed to "crystallizing a purified LTA₄ hydrolase in the presence of bestatin to form a co-crystal of LTA₄ hydrolase and bestatin," which Applicants believe accurately reflects the claimed invention. Applicants have further amended the claims in light of the Examiner's proposed amendments and submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues or if the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' Attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees paid herewith, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. PVZ-006USRCE, from which the undersigned is authorized to withdraw.

Dated: April 2, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

/Maneesh Gulati/

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